(b) if so, the amount of foreign exchange earned out of this;

(c) the prospects during the current fiscal year; and

(d) whether any kind of incentives are being given to the exporters to boost the exports; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. The number of automobiles exported has gone up from 1,84,680 in the year 2001 -02 to 3,05,368 in the year 2002-03 thereby showing an increase of 65.35 per cent.

(b) The amount of foreign exchange earned on account of automobile exports during the period from April, 2002 to February, 2003 is of the order of Rs. 2113.27 crores.

(c) The prospects during the current fiscal year appear to be positive.

(d) Exports of all products including automobiles are supported by the Government through various schemes which, *inter-alia,* include the Duty Exemption Scheme, Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme, Duty Drawback Scheme and Market Development Assistance Scheme.

Bio-products exports

2707. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is poised to lead in bio-products exports; and

(b) if so, the detailed plan for becoming global players in exports with the details of the foreign markets and foreign exchange earned out of the business during the last fiscal year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) It is a fact that the biotechnology industry has tremendous potential for exports.

(b) The Government is providing various incentives such as custom duty exemption on imports for producing biotech products for exports, issue of advance license etc. to boost exports from this sector. Markets for Indian biotech products exist in European Union, North and South

America and ASEAN countries. According to industry estimates the revenues from export of bio-products and services during 2002 were about US $ 60 million.

Losses to gems and jewellery industries of Jaipur

2708. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of losses suffered by the gems and jewellery industries of Jaipur, due to slow exports to the countries affected by the Gulf war and thereafter to those countries which remained cut off due to SARS epidemic;

(b) whether there has been substantially low demands of Indian gems and jewellery articles in the European countries, U.S.A. and Japan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the incentives Government propose to offer to pull the gems and jewellery industries of Jaipur from the present state of recession?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) As per the information made available by Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), Mumbai, an autonomous and representative body of the trade sponsored by Ministry of Commerce & Industry, prime industry in Jaipur in the Gem & Jewellery sector is the processing of coloured gemstones. There has been a decline of 22% in the export of coloured gemstones during the first quarter (April to June) of the current financial year 2003-04 including from Jaipur. The major markets for coloured gemstones are USA followed by Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, Japan, Switzerland etc. The reasons attributed to the above decline are SARS epidemic in the affected countries and war in Iraq.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Government and the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), have taken several steps to increase the export of gem and jewellery from Indra including Jaipur and to enhance